

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 06627 291430Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 DOEE-00 EB-08

OES-07 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SP-02 TRSE-00 L-03

/075 W

-----009728 291434Z /50

O R 281310Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8635

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 6627

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, ENRG, NI

SUBJECT: VISIT TO U.S. BY COMMISSIONER FOR PETROLEUM BUHARI

REF: STATE 135202

1. NIGERIAN EMBASSY APPARENTLY BUNGLED WHEN IT ADVISED DEPARTMENT THAT BUHARI ARRIVING MONDAY MAY 29 AND WANTED TO SEE SECRETARY SCHLESINGER TUESDAY MAY 30. BUHARI HAS NOT REPEAT NOT LEFT LAGOS FOR LONDON. EMBASSY PETROLOFF VISITED BUHARI AT HIS HOME, AND BUHARI CLEARLY UNDERSTANDS THAT HE HAS APPOINTMENT WITH SCHLESINGER FOR THREE P.M. AFTERNOON OF FRIDAY JUNE 30 AS ARRANGED BY DEPARTMENT. THIS WAS BUHARI'S ORIGINAL UNDERSTANDING, AND HE AND MARINHO WERE THROWN INTO CONSTERNATION WHEN THEY HEARD RUMOR THROUGH FMG CHANNELS THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE TO CANCEL CROWDED PRE-OPEC SCHEDULES AND CATCH PLANE FOR WASHINGTON ON SUNDAY WITHOUT PROPER PREPARATION. BOTH RELIEVED TO FIND IT NOT SO.

2. WE SHOULD PERHAPS BE GRATEFUL FOR CONFUSION CAUSED BY NIGERIAN EMBASSY, HOWEVER, FOR IT PROVIDED EMBASSY PETROLOFF WITH FIRST OPPORTUNITY IN NEARLY THREE YEARS TO SIT DOWN ALONE WITH BUHARI
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PAGE 02 LAGOS 06627 291430Z

IN INFORMAL, RELAXED CIRCUMSTANCES FOR HOUR-LONG DISCUSSION OF TOPICS THAT MIGHT ARISE DURING MEETING WITH SCHLESINGER. WILL REPORT SUBSTANCE BY SEPTEL. IN GENERAL, TONE OF BUHARI'S RESPONSES GIVES PROMISE THAT DISCUSSIONS WWITH SCHLESINGER WILL BE USEFUL AND INFORMATIVE. BUHARI IS NO OIL MAN, BUT HE IS REASONABLY WELL INFORMED, HAS TAKEN THE TROUBLE TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF MUTURAL CONCERN WITH HIS COUNTERPARTS IN OTHER OPEC COUNTRIES, IS

INTERESTED IN NEW INFORMATION, DOES NOT RESORT TO DEFENSIVE
PRETENSE WHEN HE DOES NOT KNOW THE ANSWERS, AND EXHIBITS A
CALM, MODERATE APPROACH TO ISSUES.

3. BUHARI CONFIRMED THAT YAR ADUA AND GARBA WILL NOT REPEAT NOT
BE COMING TO WASHINGTON WITH HIM. HE EXPLAINED THAT YAR ADUA AND
GARBA WERE ORIGINALLY INTENDING TO GO TO A NORTH-SOUTH CONFERENCE
IN JAMAICA WHICH HAS SINCE FALLEN THROUGH, AND WOULD HAVE MADE
A SIDE TRIP TO WASHINGTON. BUHARI SAID HE WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED TO
WASHINGTON BY NNPC MANAGING DIRECTOR FESTUS R.A. MARINHO,
HEAD OF NNPC'S GAS AND PETROCHEMICAL DIVISION SAM AKPE, AND HEAD
NNPC'S ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT .E.
OLORUNFEMI. BUHARI THANKED PETROLOFF FOR BRIEFINGS AND SAID
NNPC WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH EMBASSY RE TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED
AND OTHER MEMBERS OF STAFF WHO MAY ACCOMPANY HIM.

4. RE PARAGRAPH FOUR REFTTEL, PETROLOFF HASNOT YET DISCUSSED
IRS RULING WITH MARINHO, BUT HAS APPOINTMENT TO SEE HIM AT
THREE P.M. TUESDAY, MAY 30 (REPEAT MAY 30).
EASUM

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NNN

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